

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 199814

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN

SUBJECT: KOREA CORE GROUP CONSULTATIONS: AUGUST 12
MEETING

REF: A)USUN 3124; B)USUN 3144; C)STATE 198479

1. AT THE AUGUST 12 CORE GROUP MEETING, USUN IS AUTHORIZED
TO ACCEPT THE DRAFT RESOLUTION AND EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM
CONTAINED REF A. MISSION WILL ALSO INFORM CORE GROUP THAT
THE U.S. WILL COSPONSOR THE RESOLUTION AT SUCH TIME AS A
DECISION IS MADE TO SUBMIT IT.

2. ON OTHER ISSUES BEFORE THE CORE GROUP, MISSION SHOULD
BE GUIDED BY THE FOLLOWING:

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A. PRIORITY QUESTION. DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN CORE GROUP

DECISION NOT TO SEEK PRIORITY BEFORE THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT BUT WISHES TO BE FULLY PREPARED TO SUBMIT RESOLUTION IF THIS SHOULD APPEAR WARRANTED BY NORTH KOREAN ACTIONS, LANGUAGE EMERGING AT COLOMBO, STATEMENTS ON KOREAN ISSUE APPEARING DURING COLOMBO MEETING, OR STRONG NON-ALIGNED SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREA AT COLOMBO. IN VIEW CURRENT NORTH KOREAN STANCE, WE THINK IT INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT NORTH KOREA WILL PRESS FOR UNGA CONFRONTATION VERY POSSIBLY

AS EARLY AS AUGUST 20 OR 21 AND THEREFORE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT CORE GROUP BE READY TO MAKE DECISION QUICKLY AS SOON AS WE HAVE CLEAR INDICATIONS AS TO HOW COLOMBO SUMMIT WILL COME OUT. MISSION MIGHT SEEK VIEWS OF OTHER CORE GROUP MEMBERS AS TO SIGNIFANCE OF APPARENT HESITATION OF KIM IL-SUNG ON ATTENDING SUMMIT.

B. REACTIONS TO JULY 22 PROPOSAL. MISSION SHOULD CALL ATTENTION OF CORE GROUP TO IMPLICATIONS OF AUGUST 5 NORTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT CHARGING U.S. AND ROK WITH WAR PREPARATIONS AND DISMISSING OUR JULY 22 FOUR-POWER CONFERENCE PROPOSAL. MISSION IS AUTHORIZED TO DRAW ON REF C IN COMMENTING ON NORTH KOREAN STATEMENT NOTING IN PARTICULAR LINE TAKEN (PARAGRAPH 10 REF C) THAT, IF ASKED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON NORTH KOREA'S APPARENT REJECTION OF THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS, WE WILL RESPOND THAT WE CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT NORTH KOREA WILL BE WILLING TO SEEK RESOLUTION OF THE KOREAN QUESTION THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THE PARTIES CONCERNED. WE WOULD ALSO SAY THAT AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, OUR INVITATION TO A CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED REMAINS OPEN. ON QUESTION OF OTHER REACTIONS TO SECRETARY'S SPEECH, USUN MAY ALSO INFORM GROUP THAT REACTION OF COMMUNIST COUNTRIES QUITE SUBDUED. COMMUNIST MEDIA HAVE GENERALLY ONLY QUOTED NORTH KOREA OR SPOKEN APPROVINGLY OF NORTH KOREAN REJECTION OF SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS WITHOUT EXTENSIVE COMMENT WITH EXCEPTION PRC, SRV, AND CAMBODIA. LATTER HAVE STRONGLY ENDORSED HORTH KOREA WHILE PRC HAS NOT PUBLICLY COMMENTED ON PROPOSALS. MORF IMPORTANTLY, REACTTIONS OF NON ALIGNED TO SPEAK HAVE BEEN GENERALLY FAVORABLE EXCEPT FOR HARD CORE RADICALS. WE WTLL OF

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COURSE REITERATE WITH NON-ALIGNED AND OTHERS THAT OUR OFFER TO NEGOTIATE REMAINS OPEN.

C. QUESTION OF DEFERMENT. BRITISH REP CORRECT ON IMPLICATTON OF RULE 15 PARAGRAPH 2G, REF B TO EXTENT THERE COULD BE SEEMING INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN SEEKING TO INSCRIBE AN ITEM UNDER RULE 15 OF UNGA PROCEDURES AS "IMPORTANT AND URGENT" AND, SUBSEQUENTLY, SEEKING

DEFERMENT OF THAT SAME ITEM. NONETHELESS, WE BELIEVE THAT DEFERMENT IS IN KEEPING WITH OUR OVERALL STRATEGY OF AVOIDING CONFRONTATION. MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE WE COULD ARGUE PERSUASIVELY WITH NON-CORE GROUP MEMBERS THAT WHILE THE ISSUE OF KOREA IN FACT WAS AND REMAINS "IMPORTANT", INTERVENING DEVELOPMENTS, (I.E. SOME CONSENSUS ON HANDLING BY AVOIDING CONFRONTATION) NO LONGER MAKE IT "URGENT" IN THE SENSE THAT IT NEED BE INTRODUCED AND DEBATED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. GIVEN

THE STRENUOUS EFFORTS CORE GROUP MEMBERS HAVE MADE WITH MANY GOVERNMENTS OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, WE BELIEVE THOSE GOVERNMENTS WILL BE RELIEVED AT THE PROSPECT OF NOT HAVING TO DEBATE KOREA IF THAT APPEARS FEASIBLE. CONSIDERATION WOULD OF COURSE NOT ARISE IF RE-SUBMITTED BEFORE AUGUST 21. FOR THIS ADDITIONAL REASON, CORE GROUP SHOULD REMAIN CLOSELY ATTUNED TO COLOMBO CONFERENCE DEVELOPMENTS AND ATTEMPT TO MAKE FINAL ASSESSMENT PRIOR TO OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER CONFERENCE ENDS AS TO WHETHER OUR RESOLUTION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED.

3. (FYI: AS YOU KNOW KOREANS HAVE ASKED US WHETHER PHRASE "NEW LEGAL STRUCTURE" APPEARING IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF DRAFT RESOLUTION HAS ANY PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE. SHOULD YOU BE ASKED BY OTHER CORE GROUP MEMBERS ABOUT USE OF THIS PHRASE, YOU MAY EXPLAIN THAT IT WAS USED TO CONFORM WITH LANGUAGE WE HAVE USED DESCRIBING ARMISTICE AGREEMENT AS ONLY LEGAL INSTRUMENT BINDING THE PARTIES TO MAINTAIN THE PEACE. "NEW LEGAL STRUCTURE" SEEMS TO US TO BE SIMPLY MORE PRECISE PHRASING OF PREVIOUS TERM "APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS." IT DOES NOT REPRESENT ANY CHANGE IN OUR VIEW OF PURPOSE OF PROPOSED FOUR-POWER CONFERENCE. END FYI)
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4. RECOMMEND THAT NEXT CORE GROUP MEETING BE HELD ON AUGUST 17, ONE DAY AFTER COLOMBO SUMMIT BEGINS AND IN TIME FOR CORE GROUP MEMBERS TO CONSULT WITH HOME GOVERNMENTS DEPENDING ON DEVELOPMENTS THERE. WE HOPE TO OBTAIN OVER COMING WEEKEND INFO ON WHAT LANGUAGE ON KOREA NAM FONMINS ARE PUTTING BEFORE SUMMIT.

5. BECAUSE WE ANTICIPATE INCREASED INTEREST BY OTHER SIDE IN CORE GROUP CONSULTATIONS, ROK CHAIRMAN SHOULD BE ASKED TO EMPHASIZE TO OTHERS THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF AUGUST 12 AND AUGUST 17 MEETINGS.

6. APPRECIATE EARLY REPORT ON MEETING. ROBINSON

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